



press item
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NATURAL GAS: Dimock residents close to settlement with Cabot

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Families in Dimock, Pa., are close to a settlement with Cabot Oil and Gas Corp., which is alleged to have contaminated water wells in the township, according to court papers filed Monday.

Three dozen families have filed lawsuits against the company, and the attorneys of some of the families filed an amendment Monday that sets up a fund to distribute settlement money. The terms of the settlement and the plaintiffs involved were not disclosed.

Cabot made the offers in May and June contingent on the families signing a broad release "outlining the terms of the settlement and requiring complete confidentiality."

Cabot CEO Dan Dinges said July 25 that the company has reached an agreement with 32 out of 36 families and is negotiating with the rest. Despite the settlement, Cabot denies that its activities have polluted water in Dimock.

Some residents expressed relief at a termination to the lawsuit, which began in 2009.

"We are relieved to put this behind us and hopeful that we will be able to live out our lives in the home we have invested so much of our time and resources in," said Victoria Switzer, an affected resident. "I would advise anyone living in a gas field with concerns or disputes involving a gas company to try to work with them."

In contrast, outspoken critic and resident Ray Kemble (*EnergyWire* , July 30) said he would not sign a settlement agreement because it limits his ability to speak freely about Cabot. He said the offered settlement is less than a 2010 settlement between Cabot and the state that required the company to offer affected residents double the assessed value of their homes, as well as a water purification system (Laura Legere, *Times Tribune* , Aug. 15). -- **GV**

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